

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 22.5
TITLE: BOTULINUM TOXIN A INJECTIONS

AUTHORITY: 38 USC 1713; 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(c)(iii and iv)

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

- A. For blepharospasm, hemifacial spasm, and strabismus: December 29, 1989.
- B. For cervical, laryngeal, and oromandibular dystonia: November 14, 1990.
- C. For chronic spasticity: July 12, 1996.

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

64612, 64613, 64640, 67345, 90782, and 90799

III. DESCRIPTION

These procedures involve the injection of small amounts of botulinum toxin type A (available in the United States under the trade name BOTOX®) into selected muscles for the nonsurgical correction and/or reduction of the conditions of spasticity, various dystonia, nerve disorders, and muscular tonicity deviations.

IV. POLICY

Botulinum toxin A injections may be considered for CHAMPVA cost sharing for treating chronic spasticity, cervical dystonia (spasmodic torticollis), laryngeal dystonia (adductor spasmodic dysphonia), oromandibular (jaw-closing) dystonia. It may also be considered for cost sharing for treating blepharospasm, hemifacial spasm, and strabismus in patients 12 years of age and older.

V. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. Documentation must be submitted to show that adequate clinical investigations have failed to identify a correctable cause for the dystonia, spasticity, or disorder.

B. If previously denied claims are brought to the attention of CHAMPVA, the claim shall be reprocessed in accordance with this policy.

VI. EXCLUSIONS

A. Botulinum toxin is not approved for Wilson's disease, metabolic and mental disorders, or toxins. It is also not approved for task-specific dystonia (also known as occupational dystonia), common to persons who perform repetitive tasks, such as writers, athletes, and musicians.

B. For the treatment or prevention of migraine headaches.

END OF POLICY